

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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TAGS: PEPR, SHUM, CT, MZ, US

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE MAGAZINE PUBLISHES STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

1. SUMMARY. MOZAMBIQUE WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE "TEMPO" EDITION OF AUGUST 13 CARRIES ARTICLE WHICH CONTAINS TEXTS OF THREE STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE. INTRODUCTORY SECTION OF ARTICLE SAYS PURPOSE OF PUBLISHING THE DOCUMENTS IS TO SHOW THAT US USES HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN TO EXERT POLITICAL PRESSURE AND ENLARGE ITS DOMINATION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF INTRODUCTORY SECTION OF ARTICLE WHICH IS TITLED "THE USA AND THE PRETENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS." BEGIN TEXT. AT THE BEGINNING OF LAST YEAR THE WESTERN PRESS, ESPECIALLY THE AMERICANS, MADE A LOT OF FUSS ABOUT AN INCIDENT INVOLVING AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (NOW EMPIRE). THE "CONFIDENTIAL" DOCUMENT THAT WE PUBLICIZE TODAY CAME AFTER THAT INCIDENT AND THAT FUSS. IT IS A DETAILED MEMORANDUM BY THE HIGHEST OFFICIAL FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, RICHARD MOOSE, WRITTEN TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE. IN THE DOCUMENT IT IS CLEARLY SHOWN HOW THE US TAKES ADVANTAGE OF AND RESPONDS TO

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INCIDENTS OF THIS TYPE IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS OF THE THIRD WORLD--ESPECIALLY THOSE REGIMES DEPENDENT ON IMPERIALISM. IT CLEARLY SHOWS THE OPPORTUNISTIC AND DEMAGOGIC CHARACTER OF THE SO-CALLED "HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN" OF CARTER'S GOVERNMENT. THIS GOVERNMENT USES THE PRETENSE OF A HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN TO EXERCISE POLITICAL PRESSURE AND LIKEWISE CONSOLIDATE AND ENLARGE ITS TIES OF DOMINATION, OPPRESSION, AND

EXPLOITATION. END TEXT OF INTRODUCTION.

3. THE ARTICLE THEN CARRIES THE TEXT OF AN ACTION MEMORANDUM FROM ASSTSEC MOOSE TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON THE SUBJECT OF A SUITABLE RESPONSE TO THE MISTREATMENT OF US AND UK CITIZENS IN THE CAE. IT NOTES THAT THE RESPONSE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE US DISPLEASURE IN SUCH A WAY TO AVOID PROVOKING A NEW ATTACK AGAINST OUR CITIZENS AND INTERESTS. THE MEMO THEN LISTS ESSENTIAL FACTORS, AND OPTIONS: A) KEEP RELATIONS AS THEY CURRENTLY EXIST; B) A STRONG REDUCTION IN RELATIONS; AND C) A GRADUAL REDUCTION OF PROGRAMS. PROS AND CONS ARE GIVEN FOR EACH OPTION.

4. THE ARTICLE THEN PRINTS THE TEXT OF A REPORT ON THE "STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CAE" WHICH GIVES BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDED COURSES OF ACTION FOR THE NEXT THREE, SIX AND TWELVE MONTHS.

5. ANOTHER SECTION OF THE ARTICLE REPRINTS A CABLE FROM EMBASSY BANGUI TO DEPARTMENT ON THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN AID TO THE CAE. THIS IS A FIVE-PARAGRAPH CABLE--PARAS 2, 3, 4 ARE HEADED AS FOLLOWS: 2) TREATMENT OF DETAINEES, 3) PERIODS OF DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL, 4) NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. FIFTH PARAGRAPH SAYS THAT "A NEW GENERAL AMNESTY IS WIDELY EXPECTED TO BE PROCLAIMED IN DECEMBER, TO CELEBRATE THE CORONATION OF THE EMPEROR." EMBASSY TRANSLATION FIRST PARA CABLE AS FOLLOWS: OUR INFORMATION ABOUT THE NUMBER AND TREATMENT OF POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRISONERS AND OTHERS IN THE CAE IS AT BEST LIMITED. THE DETENTION OF THE TWO JOURNALISTS, RANDALL AND GOLDSMITH, PROVIDED US WITH A RARE VIEW OF A PART OF THE SYSTEM. THE FACT THAT STANDS OUT MOST CLEARLY IS THE ARBITRARY AND CAPRICIOUS NATURE OF THE SYSTEM. THE USUAL PRACTICE SEEMS TO BE TO DETAIN OR JAIL PEOPLE ON THE BASIS OF FRAGILE EVIDENCE, SOMETIMES FOR LONG PERIODS, BUT ENDING WITH THEIR LIBERATION. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT ARE JAILED AND THEN FREED ARE OFTEN RESTORED TO THEIR FORMER POSITIONS OR SOMETHING SIMILAR. FEW PRISONERS ARE KILLED (THE ONLY ONES WE KNOW ABOUT WERE THOSE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF BOKASSA IN FEBRUARY 1976) AND FEW ARE PERMANENTLY JAILED. END TEXT FIRST PARA.

6. COMMENT: NOTWITHSTANDING THE TONE OF THE TITLE AND INTRODUCTORY SECTION OF THE ARTICLE, THE PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS DO NOT CONTAIN ANYTHING WHICH REFLECTS UNFAVORABLY ON THE USG OR ITS POLICIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE APPEARED ELSEWHERE. TEMPO ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AF/S FOR NACH ON AUGUST 16.
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